



The Battlefield Dispatch

Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park Gets Ready for the 2015 Summer Season

It's time to welcome back park seasonal employees and gear up for the summer season ahead! In addition to 2015 being the National Park Service's push for you to Find Your Park, the national military park will celebrate its 125th anniversary this August. Visitors are invited to participate in regularly scheduled programs throughout the summer and to attend our special programs as well.

Chickamauga Battlefield

At Chickamauga Battlefield, visitors can join a park ranger for a hike to Snodgrass Hill or to Battleline Road every Wednesday through Saturday, where they will follow personal stories of the soldiers' during the fighting in September 1863. Visitors are also encouraged to participate in a daily car caravan tour of the battlefield, stopping at various locations to discuss how the battle unfolded around them. Additionally, rangers will be providing special talks focusing on the the NPS #FindYourPark initiative, the uses of artillery during the Battle of Chickamauga, and programs about the park's creation every Monday through Saturday at the visitor center. On Fridays, living historians will allow visitors the opportunity to step back in time and learn about the Battle of Chickamauga from a soldier or a civilian perspective.

Lookout Mountain Battlefield

At Lookout Mountain Battlefield, between Wednesday and Sunday, visitors

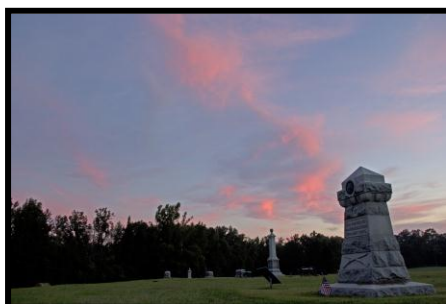
can join a park ranger on a guided tour of Point Park, where they learn about the desperate fighting on the slopes of the mountain. Every Thursday through Sunday, visitors can participate in special talks focusing on the the NPS #FindYourPark initiative and about the park's creation.

On Saturdays, living historians will allow visitors the opportunity to step back in time and learn about the Chattanooga Campaign from a soldier or a civilian perspective.

Point Park is the only fee area within the national military park. A \$3/person entrance fee is charged for adults (ages 16 and older; ages 15 and under are free).

Tours of the Cravens House, on Lookout Mountain, are available for visitors to enjoy on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. In addition to touring the house, visitors can learn about the area where some of the most fierce fighting of the battle took place.

**All programs are subject to staff availability*



Special Summer Programs

Saturday, May 9 & June 13 @ 9:30 a.m.
Moccasin Bend Bicycle/Hike (sponsored by the Friends of Moccasin Bend)

Saturday, May 16 @ 9:30 am
Orchard Knob Bicycle Tour

Saturday, May 23 @ 2 pm
Memorial Day Tour at Chickamauga

Sunday, May 24 @ 2 pm
Memorialization Program at Lookout Mountain

Saturday, May 30
Artillery Demonstrations at Lookout Mountain

Saturday & Sunday, June 6-7
Civilian Conservation Corps Programs at Lookout Mountain

Saturday, June 20 & July 18 @ 9:30 a.m.
Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Tour (sponsored by the Friends of the Park)

Saturday, June 20 @ 2 pm
Juneteenth Program at Orchard Knob

Saturday, July 4 @ 2 pm
Railroads in the Civil War Program at Lookout Mountain

Thursday, July 9 @ 6:30 pm
Canoe Lookout Creek (sponsored by the Friends of Moccasin Bend)
*Reservations Made through Outdoor Chattanooga

Saturday, July 25
Artillery Demonstrations at Chickamauga Battlefield

By Superintendent Brad Bennett

As the weather warms, flowers bloom, and the school year winds down, it is exciting to see a variety of projects and programs underway in Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. LaFayette Road in Chickamauga Battlefield is in the process of being resurfaced, promising a smoother drive through the park by the end of June. Meanwhile, up at Point Park on Lookout Mountain, the New York Peace Monument is being cleaned of years of tarnish, creating a fresh look just in time for the park's 125th anniversary.

This summer, we will welcome several local students to our ranks through a partnership with the Southeast Conservation Corps. This program will not only put area youth to work improving the Blue Blazes Trail on Moccasin Bend and other projects, but it will help connect the next generation to potential career opportunities with the National Park Service.

In April, the National Park Foundation launched the "Find Your Park" campaign to encourage all Americans to experience the more than 400 special places that preserve our country's natural and cultural heritage. As we approach the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016, we are pleased to report that nearly 1 million people found this national park last year. Whether they were attending a ranger-led program to learn about American Indian or Civil War history, or simply enjoying a walk on one of the park's trails, they also spent over \$61 million in surrounding communities and supported 959 jobs in the local economy.

Now that you have found this park, I invite you to share the good news about your national park system. Thank you for getting out into your national park, and for getting involved with its future.

-Brad Bennett

New Beginnings

By Park Ranger Chris Barr

It's hard to believe that the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War is coming to a close. 150 years ago this summer, the veterans of Chickamauga and Chattanooga – at least those who were still alive – began to make their way home. Over time, we have come to believe that the Civil War ended easily. We envision rows of Confederate soldiers stacking arms peacefully as Union soldiers offer salutes of respect to their now former enemies. We see pictures of veterans shaking hands and going home, much like what is depicted on the recently restored New York Peace Monument at Point Park. But behind this public front of reconciliation, reunion, and happy peace, a new struggle was just beginning. The abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator* noted in the summer of 1865, "The war is not ended as many so fondly imagine."

Widows like Emilie Helm, whose husband Benjamin was killed at Chickamauga, fought to preserve their loved ones' memories, but also to provide for their orphaned families. Many veterans, like Jacob Miller of the 9th Indiana Infantry, were left with permanent reminders of the battle in the form of grotesque injuries and missing limbs. Still others were left with deep psychological scars that left them unable to work or function in society. The families who lived on the battlefield struggled to rebuild, and many simply gave up and left. By the fall of 1865, more than 6,000 former enslaved people converged on Chattanooga under the protection of the Freedman's Bureau and military occupation. But out in the countryside, a violent insurgency gripped rural Tennessee and Georgia as organizations like the Ku Klux Klan fought to restore the pre-war racial status quo and to end the military occupation of Reconstruction.

Over the years, the nation coped with these challenges. Violence against African Americans subsided as Jim Crow laws enforced a reestablished antebellum racial status. This segregation was made complete in 1896 when, despite Chickamauga veteran Albion Tourgée's best efforts arguing the case, the Supreme Court established the "separate but equal" doctrine in the *Plessy v. Ferguson* case. In 1866, Union Veterans established the Grand Army of the Republic, which worked to provide services and support for veterans, including medical care and soldiers' homes, and became a powerful political force. By 1895, nearly half of the entire federal budget went to pensions for Union veterans and their families. Eventually, there were three GAR chapters in the Chattanooga area. Throughout the South, local veterans groups eventually formed the United Confederate Veterans, and states provided their own pension programs. In addition to supporting their members, these organizations promoted national reconciliation. In 1889 thousands of Chickamauga veterans met just south of the battlefield, and out of this reunion was borne the idea of a national military park. They brought their political influence to bear, and in August 1890, Congress passed legislation establishing Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

The Civil War Sesquicentennial may be ending, but this August will mark the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the park. Throughout the summer, we will have a series of programs exploring the issues that confronted these veterans and why they chose to make Chickamauga the nation's first national military park. We hope that you'll join us this summer and perhaps, like those veterans 125 years ago, you'll also "Find Your Park."

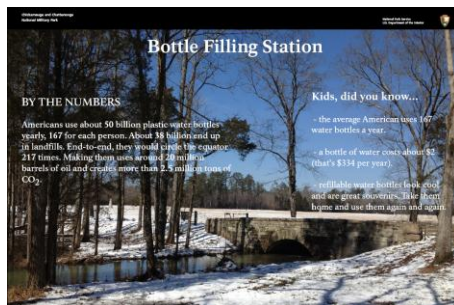
Chickamauga Battlefield Receives New Water Refill Station

By Maintenance Mechanic Stacy Payne

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is taking the initiative to “go green” and reduce our carbon footprint. We are doing this by reducing the amount of plastic water bottles used throughout the park. These bottles, if not recycled, are disposed of in the local landfills. The plan to address this change is to 1) encourage the refill and reuse concept by installing water filling stations accessible to visitors and employees and 2) reduce the waste of disposable plastic bottles.

The park is implementing a plan to reduce and eventually phase out the sale of individual, pre-bottled waters being sold in the park, while still encouraging our visitors to drink water. According to the Department of the Interior,

Americans use about 50 billion plastic water bottles yearly, 167 for each person. About 38 billion bottles end up in local landfills. Making plastic bottles uses around 20 million barrels of oil and creates more than 2.5 million tons of carbon-dioxide. This program will encourage the use of the water filling station, which in turn, will eliminate



Bottle filling station sign in Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center

almost 9,000 prepackaged, individual bottles of water from being disposed of in the local landfill.

Currently, park staff has installed a station at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center. These units are wall mounted and ADA compliant. A neat technical upgrade shows how many bottles are saved throughout the life of the dispenser. The installation of two additional stations is planned for the Lookout Mountain Battlefield.

The park's partner, Eastern National, also supports this ecologically friendly approach by offering refillable souvenir bottles with a variety of logos; they are available for purchase in the Eastern National Bookstore.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

In 1863, Union and Confederate forces fought for control of Chattanooga, known as the “Gateway to the Deep South.” Confederates were victorious at nearby Chickamauga in September. Renewed fighting in Chattanooga that November provided Union troops with victory and control of the city.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

“Take a Hike” on Lookout Mountain

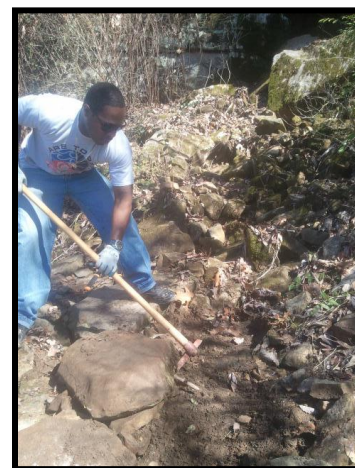
By Park Ranger Justin Young

The Lookout Mountain trail system has been receiving many compliments from the hard work completed by our local volunteer crews. These crews have dedicated their time and energy towards rehabilitating many of the mountain's most popular hiking and climbing areas. Already this year, they have worked on the Kiddie trail, Skyuka trail, the Nature Center boundary, Bluff Trail, Glenn Falls, Blue Blazes Trail, Cravens Trail, Sunset Rock, and Eagles Nest. Future projects include Jackson Gap, Upper/Lower Truck, and Gum Springs trails.

We encourage you to become a part of this important work to benefit your local community and keep our trails useful for everyone. If you are interested in volunteering, please email william_sunderland@nps.gov to receive an application and be placed on a mailing list where you will receive updates of trail work events. Trail work

varies and as long as you enjoy hiking trails, then you are just the person we are looking for to help. Volunteers can perform difficult tasks such as clearing brush with a chain saw, digging water bars, installing signs, and stacking rocks. Other, less strenuous tasks that are no less important include pruning vegetation, handing out maps to visitors, picking up litter, and providing good company.

Once a volunteer is on the mailing list, all they need to do is show up to a work day and take a hike!



A volunteer helps with trail work on Lookout Mountain

From Turnpike to Trail

By Park Historian Jim Ogden

Have you ever hiked the Whiteside Trail on the Lookout Mountain Battlefield? It should arguably be the most important trail within that unit of the national military park. At the time of the Civil War, it was a segment of the Lookout Mountain Turnpike, the road up the mountain. Chartered by the state of Tennessee in 1852, it was a venture of early Chattanooga businessman James A. Whiteside. Essentially turning an existing path into an improved 16 foot wide toll road with a grade of less than 15 percent, it was intended by Whiteside and his partners to make possible their development of the Summertown resort on the mountain's summit. An 1855 mountain visitor wrote:

"There is a very good road all the way up—in some places pretty steep, but for the greater part...the ascent is easy. The road winds up through the trees along the sides of deep and immense ravines, while large masses of rock jut out all around you, above and below."

Often called the Whiteside Turnpike, the road was the route by which the Confederate cannon, with doubled teams, reached the summit during the Siege of Chattanooga in 1863. In 1864 the Union army improved the road to facilitate the operations of the large hospital it built on the mountain; most of the thousands of soldiers who had their pictures taken on the Point ascended by this route. Put out of business by other routes in the 1880s, the Lookout Mountain Turnpike began to fade from memory and even the mountainside. Only a portion of its route today is the Whiteside Trail (Old Mountain Road in St. Elmo is the lowest portion). If you have not taken the opportunity, hike the Whiteside Trail and think of those who used the Lookout Mountain Turnpike a century ago to reach the summit.

National Park Night with the Lookouts

By Friends of the Park Executive Director
Patrice Glass

What do you get when you combine America's favorite pasttime – baseball – and America's best idea – national parks? You get National Park Night with the Lookouts. Join the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and the National Park Service in celebrating Chattanooga's national park. The 7th annual National Park Night with the Lookouts is Monday, June 1. Though the first pitch is at 7:15 pm, you'll want to come early to participate in activities highlighting our national park. All kids receive a free hot dog and soft drink, and the first 150 will receive Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park trading cards.

After you see the Civil War artifacts, living history soldiers, and NPS rangers, share your favorite national park story with us. Look for the video booth that

will allow you to record your favorite national park memory. Videos will be added to the national "Find Your Park" website.

Proceeds from pregame ticket sales benefit the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. See the Friends website at www.friendsofchch.org for tickets.



A park ranger talks about Civil War baseball with a family attending National Park Night with the Lookouts in

The Battlefield Dispatch is a quarterly publication of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

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